



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,466	11/28/2003	Jae Kyum Kim	0465-1103P	7972

2292 7590 09/27/2006

BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

RIGGLEMAN, JASON PAUL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1746

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/722,466

Applicant(s)

KIM ET AL.

Examiner

Jason P. Riggelman

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 November 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to label Figs. 1-3 as prior art as described in the specification. Fig. 3 is missing part number labels "15" and "10" and described in paragraph [0013]. Part number labels "200" and "100" as described in paragraphs [0041] and [0039]-[0058], respectively, were not found in any of the drawings. Fig. 4 is missing part number label "100" as described in paragraph [0042] of the specification. Fig. 4 contains part number labels "81", "112a", and "112b" not found in the specification. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner,

Art Unit: 1746

the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the admitted state of the art, ASA, disclosed by the applicant.

4. The ASA (paragraphs [0003]-[0019]) and (Figs. 1-3) teaches a washing machine consisting of a cabinet 10, having front, back, rear, bottom, and side panels/plates with the front panel containing a plurality of notch recesses. In the front panel is an opening provided for the door 12 to be installed at the front side. A tub 20 provided inside the cabinet 10, and a drum 30 rotatably installed inside the tub 20.

5. The front panel 11 consists of top and bottom flanges 11a and 11b, respectively, which are firstly bent from the top and bottom ends of the front panel 11 in a rear direction and secondly bent upward and downward, respectively and left and right flanges 11c and 11d, respectively, are firstly bent from both lateral sides in the rear direction and secondly bent in a direction facing each other.

Art Unit: 1746

6. An insertion hole 11e having a shape of a key-slot is formed at each upper part of the left and right flanges 11c and 11d, and a coupling hole 11f is formed at each lower part of the left and right flanges 11c and 11d.

7. The insertion protrusions, 15e and coupling protrusions 15f are formed at both front ends of the body to correspond to the insertion holes 11e and the coupling holes 11f, respectively.

8. Fig. 3, clearly indicates "U"-shaped notch recesses formed at the outline part of the front panel at both ends of the top and bottom flanges on the side of the panel adjacent of the cabinet body.

9. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith et al. (US Patent No. 4307588).

10. Smith teaches a clothes washing machine which has a removable front panel, side panels, back panel, base plate as seen in Fig. 1. The front panel contains a plurality of notch recesses as seen in Figs. 2 and 4.

11. The notches recesses are formed at an outline part of the front panel.

12. The fixing of the front panel is effected by a key-hole slot 5 in each flap 3, the key hole engaging over a button to an inwardly turned flange 6 (Column 1-2, Lines 65-68, 0-5).

13. Figs. 2 and 4 teach notch recesses at both ends of the top and bottom flanges, at both ends of the side flanges. The notch recesses have a "U" shape and are formed on one side of the front panel, namely the face attached to the washing machine.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lybarger et al. (US Patent No. 5584549) and Marangoni (UK Patent Application No. GB2 022 621 A) both teach a front panel for a washing machine containing a plurality of notches which contribute to the strength of the cabinet.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason P. Riggleman whose telephone number is 571-272-5935. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jason P Riggleman
Examiner
Art Unit 1746


MICHAEL BARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER